

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Meeting Summary April 13, 2016

Members Present: Dana Bell, Gina Brown, Ethan Chen, Tom Grazio, Stuart Grossman, Cecily Dardin-Adams, Carson Henry, Lindsay Hoffman, Nancy Kaplan, Sareanna Kimia, Nora Ludden, Elizabeth McGlynn, Dr. Angela Mickalide, Roberta Rinker, Bobbi Sherman and Beka Urgessa.

Members Absent: Shari Argue, Adraine Clutter, Howard Nicholson and Tami Niedomanski.

Guests: Mr. Elijah Wheeler, Social Justice Program Director, Montgomery County Collaboration Council

Otto Perez and Laura Brown, YouthLinks Mentoring, YMCA

Ms. Iver-Ellis represented the Department of Recreation in Adriane Clutter's absence.

Staff Present: Erin Stillwell and Marva Younger

Dana Bell, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Approval of March 9th Minutes

Moved to approve minutes – Dr. Angela Mickalide Seconded by Stuart Grossman Unanimously approved

Following introduction of commissioners, guests, and staff, Dana Bell introduced Mr. Elijah Wheeler who addressed the full commission on My Brother's Keeper initiative. He stated that President Barack Obama launched this initiative in 2014 for local governments and communities to address the needs and issues affecting young people, mainly males of color. Mr. Wheeler was appointed by County Executive Isiah Leggett to design and implement an action plan to benefit young people of color. Mr. Wheeler invited commissioners to attend "A Community Day of Action" hosted by Montgomery County's My Brother's Keeper on Saturday, April 30th, 9:30am to 3:00pm at Clifton Park Baptist Church in Silver Spring.

My Brother's Keeper Sub-Committee Report

Mr. Wheeler was invited to stay and address the members of the Sub-Committee on his role with the My Brother's Keeper initiative. The Sub-Committee has identified mentoring as one of the issues that they would like to further explore with the My Brother's Keeper. The Collaboration Council is working with a third party group to create a report that evaluates the current mentoring programs in Montgomery County. Members of the MBK sub-committee plan to attend the Community Action Day at Clifton Park Baptist Church on April 30th to learn more about the role of mentoring with MBK.

Homeless Sub-Committee Reports

Roberta attended meetings with the Inter-Agency Commission and Coordinating Council. The definition of homelessness was the main topic discussed as it has evolved over time. Roberta shared that a person is not considered to be homeless when there is instability in housing situation (e.g, sleeping at a friend's home or couch surfing from one place to another). The Sub-Committee will review the definition of homelessness and how it may relate to their work on youth homelessness. Roberta also attended the County budget hearing which she noted that a plan to create "drop-in centers" was not discussed. Executive Leggett wants \$125K Federal funding for housing to help homeless youth. The Sub-Committee plans to follow up with Youth Reach MD for a date when Montgomery County will be included in their study. In addition, the Sub-Committee will review other jurisdictions (Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Miami-Dade) that have demographics similar to that of Montgomery County.

Nominations for Upcoming Election of Chair and Co-Chair

Dana called for nominations from the floor for Chair and Co-Chair. Voting by secret ballot will be held at the May meeting. The slate includes:

Chair

• Lindsay Hoffmam

Vice Chair

- Gina Brown
- Elizabeth McGlynn

Several commissioners were nominated for co-chair, but declined for various reasons. It was mentioned that in the new commission year, the chair would reinstate the executive board (to include the chair, co-chair and committee leaders). There was a discussion about allowing two co-vice chairs to serve for the next commission year. Both Gina Brown and Elizabeth McGlynn requested to accept the nomination with the understanding that they would like to serve as co-vice chairs. Kudos was extended to Dana and Roberta for their leadership as chair and co-chair, respectively.

Tour de Cookie

The upcoming Tour de Cookie will be held on Saturday, May 7, 8am to 11am (rain or shine) at Johns Hopkins University, Rockville Campus. Erin distributed sticker to be placed on zip lock bags for cookies. Erin requested that those assisting the with Tour de Cookie share their cookie stand themes via email as soon as possible. Tom asked commissioners to support this event.

Nancy Dworkin Awards

The Nancy Dworkin Award nomination committee met earlier (4/13/2016 at 6pm) to selected awardees. The awardees were selected based on rubric developed by Dr. Angela Mickalide and Lindsay Hoffman. Nominations for the Youth Award will remain opened until April 27th. The awards event will be held on Monday, May 16 at Johns Hopkins University, Rockville Campus, Gilchrist Center Auditorium. Erin has confirmed the entertainment but is still seeking donations for refreshments. Special guests include several family members of the late Nancy Dworkin, Uma Ahluwalia and JoAnn Barnes. County Executive Isiah Leggett has been invited but no confirmation of his attendance as of this date.

Announcements/Reminders:

Dana reminded the commissioners that the retreat is scheduled for June 8, 2016, 6pm to 9pm. This will be a working and planning session, and it is imperative that all members are present. The retreat will focus on evaluation the work the commission has completed this past year. This will also be a time to plan for the priorities and recommendations for the upcoming year.

Erin distributed reimbursement forms to commissioners who need to file. All forms need to be completed ASAP so they can be submitted before the close of the FY16.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.